

## ORNITHOLOGICAL LITERATURE

**BIRDS OF THE BLACK HILLS.** By Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. and Nathaniel R. Whitney, Jr. Cornell Laboratory of Ornithology, Ithaca, New York, Special Publication Number 1, 1965: viii + 139 pp., 9 figs., 5 line drawings, map. \$2.50.

This is a detailed account of the birds in "an island of mountains in a vast expanse of prairie" known as the Black Hills, covering about 4,500 square miles. Two-thirds of the area lies in southwestern South Dakota and one-third in northeastern Wyoming. Included are all known records of substance, a large share of the observations being supplied by the authors. Contributors other than the authors are specially acknowledged. For the more regular species, information is presented on occurrence and local status, distribution, habitats, nesting, and migration. In many instances useful data are given on behavior or "special habits." Subspecific determinations of specimens were made by John P. Hubbard and are carefully summarized, hence this publication will have special interest to taxonomists.

Listed in all are 226 species, of which eight are considered hypothetical and 87 are reported as rare, casual, or irregular. The remaining 131 species occur regularly from year to year. Helpful lists of permanent residents, summer residents, transients, and winter residents are given under "seasonal distribution." Terms expressing relative abundance have been defined, thus making comparisons with other areas feasible. Each species account includes substantial information on nesting, vocalizations, etc.; it is generally succinct and appears to have been carefully edited. Brief but informative descriptions of the geography, topography, drainage, climate, vegetation, and "man's impress on the environment" provide instructive background to the ensuing discussions of "ecological distribution" and "origin and peculiarities" of the birdlife of the Black Hills. Eight photographs, which suffer slightly from reproduction on nonglossy paper, show major aspects of the Black Hills, and will be of interest to those who may not have seen this area, or who may know the Black Hills chiefly as the site of the Rushmore National Memorial. A map of the Black Hills area, complete with highways, is reproduced on the inside front cover and repeated, without change, at the end of the species accounts where there is an extensive and useful gazetteer. Inclusion of a scale on the map would have been helpful. This book, which measures 6 by 9 inches, is made especially attractive by the cover design—a White-winged Junco drawn by George Miksch Sutton—and by five line drawings within the book by William C. Dilger. The typography is clean and open, making for pleasant and easy reading.

Preservation of natural areas depends to an increasing extent upon the provision of interpretative information for the public. Regional lists of this sort are valuable to that end. All those who contributed to the "Birds of the Black Hills," and the authors in particular, deserve credit for making this information available. Those persons who attended the annual meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society in the Black Hills (17–20 June 1965) will recall that this publication was first made available on that occasion. Anyone planning a visit to the Black Hills will certainly want to have at hand a copy of the *Birds of the Black Hills* as a guide to the natural history and particularly the ornithology of the region.—ROBERT W. NERO.

**THE BIRD WATCHER'S AMERICA.** Edited by Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. McGraw-Hill Book Company, New York, 1965: 6 × 8½ in., 441 pp., many drawings by John Henry Dick. \$7.50.

In the early 1950's Olin Sewall Pettingill, Jr. published a new type of bird guide—